

disparity is a straightforward solution that will provide financial relief.

A study conducted by Coopers & Lybrand indicates that mental parity legislation would save over \$16 million in Medicaid costs annually. People who exhaust their current health care benefits are forced to fall back on the Federal health care system. This is certainly not my idea of responsible fiscal management of our public health care. America's insurance companies can well afford to equalize caps for both mental and medical conditions. We have waited long enough for this comprehensive, financially prudent approach to health care reform. By providing parity for mental health benefits, we are helping millions of Americans move closer toward meaningful recovery. I urge all of my colleagues to listen to the voices of concerned citizens and guarantee mental health parity for all those in need of long-term treatment.

#### RECOGNIZING OLYMPIC ACHIEVEMENT AND WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of a gifted athlete and special constituent of mine. Her name is Diane Madl. She is a talented field hockey player and coach. Diane is also an Olympian. At the Atlanta games, she helped the U.S. women's field hockey team to a very respectable fifth place finish. All of Maine is rightfully proud of Diane's selection for the U.S. team and of her performance at the centennial games.

Perhaps more importantly, however, Maine people are grateful for her work at the University of Maine in Orono. As an assistant field hockey coach, Diane serves as a teacher and mentor to many female athletes. Along with head coach Terry Kix, Diane is helping to build a strong athletic program; one that is instilling valuable lessons in each woman associated with it.

Diane's commitment to excellence in the Olympics and at the University of Maine, as well as her dedication to female athletes and belief in all the good that athletes can do is deserving of our recognition, and a heartfelt thank you.

#### CONGRESS MUST PRIORITIZE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that as the budget process for fiscal year 1997 comes to a close, whether through an omnibus appropriations bill or by normal appropriations bills, this Congress may not sufficiently prioritize student financial aid and education programs. As we all search to balance the budget, let us not forget the heavy burden that our educational institutions have for preparing today's youth to lead America in the next century.

I understand that cuts will inevitably be made, and many of the President's funding requests will not be met as we wind our way through these budget debates. However, to those Members who feel it is necessary to balance the budget by eliminating Goals 2000, Perkins loans, and Healthy Start while also slashing funding for Pell grants, teacher training programs, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools, I must ask that you reexamine your values.

For example, consider the words that Tomika Harris of Fayette, MI wrote as she applied for a summer scholarship for needy students at the University of Southern Mississippi. In response to the question, "What impact will the loss of financial aid have on your educational goals and what does financial aid mean to you?", Ms. Harris gave us an insight into how important financial aid and a higher education are to today's youth:

The loss of financial aid will have a dramatic impact on not only me, but also my peers. In my community, there is mostly lower middle class and poverty stricken people. However, most of the kids want to continue their education, but because we have low employment rates, we depend on financial aid terribly to attend a higher education institution. If Congress takes financial aid away, that will be more students on the streets probably selling drugs instead of learning in a classroom. To me, financial aid is not money to go to college, but an opportunity for success.

Perkins loans, Pell grants, Goals 2000, Healthy Start and many of these other programs serve as primary vehicles to lift by State out of the poverty that has consumed generations of bright, young minds. Even now, I can hear the voices of the mothers and fathers I see each weekend in Mississippi telling me that they know their child will have a chance to end the cycle of broken dreams if he or she can only get a Head Start. Now, just as years of hard work by teachers and public officials have helped Mississippi and this Nation to finally begin throwing off the heavy shrouds of poverty, do not send us back into an abyss of shattered lives and undereducated minds.

Each of us has a duty as elected official to heed these voices. Listen to them, they are the children of today hoping for tomorrow.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF NEW BEDFORD

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the town of New Bedford on the occasion of its 200th anniversary celebration.

New Bedford, located in northern Lawrence County, was settled in 1796 by James, Thomas, and Andrew Black. The Black family established a 400-acre tract which today encompasses the entire town of New Bedford. The town itself was named for Dr. Samuel Bedford, whose Bedford claim included portions of land in Mercer and Lawrence Counties.

The original town, designed by Daniel Inbody, was laid out in 1818, and consisted of 89 lots. In 1827, a post office was established

and other early enterprises included a grist mill, pottery, tavern, tannery, creamery, and distillery. The first school in the area was situated at Hopewell in the old building erected by the Presbyterian congregation. The town of New Bedford was a well-known stopping place for stage and mail coaches traveling between Mercer and Youngstown, OH.

A beautiful, rural area, New Bedford lies hundreds of feet above the water level of the Shenango River. This close-knit community is home to some 300 residents, many of whom can trace their roots of the founding families of the town. Such early entrepreneurial spirit is today reflected in the pride, patriotism, and virtues of the citizens of this outstanding town. It is a pleasure and an honor to congratulate them on the occasion of this historic celebration.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO MORRIS UDALL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, President Bill Clinton awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to our former colleague, and my good friend, Morris Udall. I can not think of a more deserving recipient of our nation's highest civilian award.

Mo represented the 2nd District of Arizona in Congress for 30 years, coming in as a young upstart bent on dismantling the old seniority system and leaving as one of our most revered senior Members.

Mo served as Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee for fourteen years. He was instrumental in leading the way for the enactment of landmark legislation protecting the environment as well as the rights of American Indians and those living in the U.S. Territories.

Some of the laws which now stand as a testament to Chairman Udall are: the Alaska Lands Act, the 1984 Wilderness Act, the 1982 Nuclear Waste Management Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1989, the National Trails System Improvements Act of 1988, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and the Compact of Free Association with the Trust Territories of the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, Mo Udall was so successful in getting legislation passed because he was a master at building coalitions out of diverse interests. I am inspired each time I sit in the Morris K. Udall hearing room of the Longworth House Office Building where Mo served and presided for three decades. Mo's portrait looking down at us from its perch over the fireplace reminds me of the fairness, humor, and dignity with which he ran the committee. The issues before the Interior (now Resources) Committee have always been contentious. But Mo Udall was able to bring us all together to make the important decisions on how best to protect our precious natural resources for future generations.